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Thereby Hangs A Tale

It took E. L. Henderson of Auburn, Washington ten years to land a large brown trout which was caught 42 years ago, ten years before Henderson was even born. The tale sounds a bit fishy, but there is an explanation.

On Memorial Day, 1925, Isum Jacobs of Big Timber pulled a 21-pound brown trout from the Yellowstone River east of Livingston. Jacobs had the measurements of the trout recorded in a book now located at the Saxan-Fryers store in Livingston, then gave the fish away. The fine specimen was mounted by a taxidermist, John Jonas.

Many tale of the big fish handed down through the years prompted Jacob's grandson, E. L. Henderson, to begin a search for the trophy which had great sentimental value for the family.

The mount apparently graced the corridors of Montana's capitol building for some years, but had been removed when Henderson began his search in 1957. After 10 years of looking, the fish was finally found, recently refurbished and displayed at a fish and game office.

Mr. Henderson produced photographic and other proof that the fish was actually the one for which he had been searching. The request that he be given the fish after paying for expenses in conditioning the mount was granted by the Fish and Game Commission, and thereby hangs the tale.

E. L. Henderson of Auburn, Washington with the Brown Trout that prompted a 10-year search.

Southwestern Montana Deer Management

by EUGENE O. ALLEN, Game Management Biologist

In many respects, Montana has much to be proud of after 25 years of game management. Some accomplishments certainly must be viewed with envy by other states. In many parts of Montana, however, our deer management program hasn't produced the desired results. Harvests in past seasons have been insufficient to maintain a balance between deer populations and available range in many areas, including parts of southwestern Montana. As a result, ranges have deteriorated and deer numbers have declined.

Scudder Creek, located in the Grasshopper Creek drainage about 30 miles west of Dillon, is typical of most southwestern Montana winter deer ranges. Snow forces deer out of the higher country to a relatively small wintering area of south and west exposure and less snow. The key winter

Mountain mahogany is a vital browse on several Montana deer winter ranges.

food plant here is mountain mahogany and the size and welfare of the deer herd is dependent upon the quality and quantity of mahogany available.

History of this deer herd is typical of most Montana deer herds east of the Continental Divide. Deer increased beyond range capacity and reached a peak in the mid 1950's. Since then, condition of the deer winter range has deteriorated resulting in a decline in deer numbers.

Prior to 1950 hunting was for bucks only. In the early 1950's, buck-only seasons with a few days of either sex hunting tied on the end of the season were characteristic. The first full length either sex season was in 1955 and, with one season exception, from 1956-66, two deer either sex seasons were employed. For several years an unlimited number of special non-resident permits were available and a few late, special hunts were conducted. In spite of these past seasons, which were as liberal as those anywhere in the state, the deer herd is still above range carrying capacity.

There is still a fair size deer herd in the area and most hunters are able to connect if they are willing to get out and hunt. Although the estimated 1966 harvest for area 31 (which includes Scudder Creek) was nearly double the 1965 harvest and the second highest since the present unit boundaries were established in 1960, there is little doubt that there are fewer deer there now than 10 or 15 years ago.

Montana Fish and Game Department personnel have gathered detailed information from the Scudder Creek deer winter range, and others, since the early 1950's. In addition to routine surveys, an intensive study of the deer herd and range condition was conducted between 1954-57. The long-standing nature of the problem is evident from old reports including: 1950—"Both mountain mahogany and juniper are browsed as high as a deer can reach;" 1951—"Use of mountain mahogany is excessive. The deer are in poor condition — emaciated with dull pelage. Heavy losses can be expected this spring;" 1954—"The browse on Scudder Creek is largely dead or dying mountain mahogany shrubs. The vitality of these shrubs is so low that even those plants within the deer exclosures produced very little new growth last year."

Average twig use and numbers of dead and decadent mountain mahogany plants on this winter range have increased the past five years as compared to the previous five. This indicates a downward trend in range condition. At the present time nearly 75 percent of the mahogany available to deer on this range is dead, and the remaining 25 percent has been overused into an unproductive state! Unfortunately, most winter deer ranges in southwestern Montana are in a similar condition and it should come as no surprise that there are fewer deer now than some years back.

One symptom of a poor winter range and one of the reasons for a decline in deer numbers is reduced fawn production. As the supply of preferred browse plants is exhausted, often early in the winter, deer must turn to less preferred, less palatable plants such as rabbit-

In most areas, summer deer forage is no problem. It is during winter where deer must feed in more confined areas that range problems become critical.

brush, sagebrush and mountain juniper. The result is poor nutrition through the late winter months — nutrition below the level required to insure a large, healthy fawn crop the next spring. In the early 1950's the Scudder Creek herd was producing about 100 fawns per 100 does; below the potential but a good crop. The past several years' production has only been about 60 fawns per 100 does — a significant loss of potential animals for the hunter's bag. This loss of animals through lower production is just as tragic and real had the animals been born only to starve on an inadequate winter range. Both starvation and low production are symptoms of the same problem — too many deer for the available winter range. The hunter is the real loser when Mother Nature makes the harvest!

The future of this and other deer herds in southwestern Montana depends on how successful we are in controlling the size of these herds in order to let winter ranges recover to their full, productive potential. Since past seasons have failed to reduce deer herds to a level in balance with their available winter range, future seasons must be **more** liberal, **not less,** than those of the past. Bringing back a deer range is no overnight process and many years of effort will be required. However, if we are to develop the deer resource of Montana to its full, recreational potential, **it must be done!** There is no easy, painless way.

Individuals interested in proper resource management and future deer hunting in Montana should support **whatever steps are necessary** to put these ranges back into full production! This will result in a maximum yield of animals for the hunter on an annual, sustained basis — the goal of game management.

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Edited by VERNON CRAIG

FISHING FOR CARP – Lake Helena

Nephi Grasteit, descendent of a long line of fishermen who once sailed the Baltic sea, sews a "purse" onto net wings in preparation for a set. The purse seine consists of long net wings with the purse which is a large bag of netting.

With one end secured at the shoreline, the seine is played out over the square end of a boat. Floats on the "cork line" keep one side of the net afloat while weights on the "lead line" pull the other side down so the net hangs vertically in the water.

The seine has been swept in a large arc so both ends are almost together. Fish are now encircled. The net wings will now be drawn in. A rope attached at intervals to the cork line of the net is winched in, pulling the heavy netting with it. As the netting comes in, it is cleaned and folded on a boat deck.

Carp have finally been swept into the wings and its opening tied off so carp ca for some time awaiting transportation.

A ten ton bag of carp is maneuvered a mechanical loader.

With heavy dip net, carp are dumped into loading hopper.

Truckload of fish is ready for hauling. consumption. Others go to private fish ha food. About 600,000 pounds of carp have

Long distances and vagaries of marke have large volumes and move from one spo as fish become thinned out in some spots. three commercial fishermen on inland waters

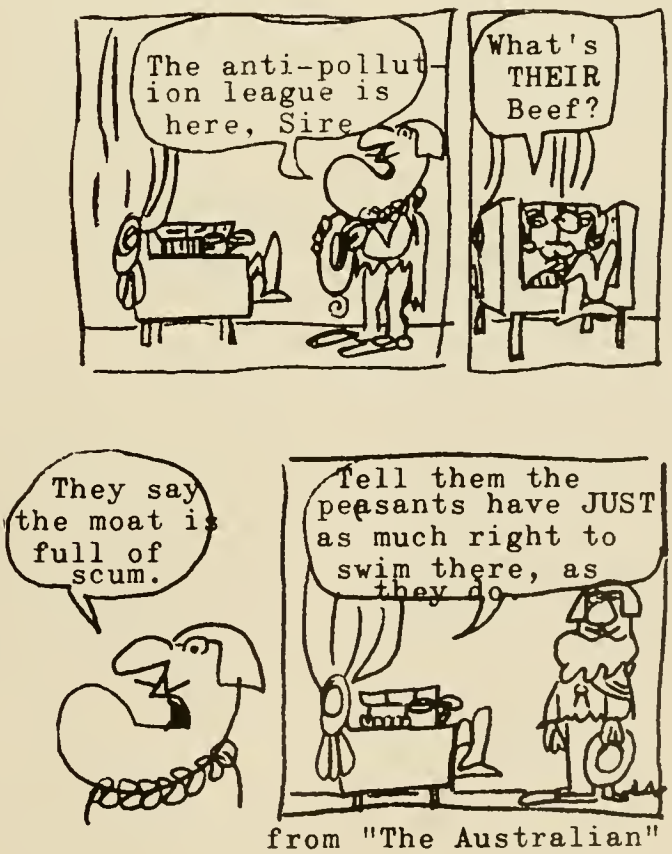
urse. The purse is then freed from the net
escape. They may be held in these bags

to position before the yawning hopper of

Once in position, the purse is held in place between two boats. It is then opened and the job of loading begins.

me are iced and go to large cities for human
neries where they will be chopped for trout
en taken from Lake Helena this year.

make inland fishing tough. Fishermen must
o another as demands for fish change and
w western states have more than two or


The anti-pollution league is here, Sire
What's THEIR Beef?
They say the moat is full of scum.
Tell them the peasants have JUST as much right to swim there, as they do

from "The Australian"

Tiber Reservoir Recreation Area

by ASHLEY ROBERTS

Tiber Dam and Reservoir is located on the Marias River in north central Montana. A short drive of some 18 miles from Chester will bring you to the dam area. From Great Falls, Tiber Reservoir may be reached by a drive of some 75 miles almost directly north.

Tiber Reservoir is a part of the Lower Marias unit of the Missouri River Basin Project. It was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1956. The dam itself is of the rolled earthfill-type with a crest length of 4,300 feet and a height above streambed of 196 feet. The reservoir stores and regulates the runoff of the entire Marias drainage containing 4,375 square miles.

Not long after the dam had been completed and storage of water had been started, the Parks Section completed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Reclamation whereby the Parks Section would administer certain areas around the reservoir for recreation purposes. Development work and the placing of facilities under this agreement started in 1957.

At the time of closure on the construction of the dam, the State Fish and Game Department, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, rehabilitated the entire watershed of the Marias drainage. The streams and lakes, including Tiber Reservoir itself, were then stocked with fish—mostly rainbow trout. Since the reservoir was filling, food was plentiful and the fish grew rapidly and provided one of the hottest fishing spots in the state of Montana. Anglers and boaters from all over the state, as well as many Canadians and visitors from other states, crowded the banks and the water surface making fabulous catches.

This condition continued for a few years and then began to deteriorate. Biologists from the department made studies at the reservoir and have determined that silting problems in the reservoir interfere with the food supply and the fish just do not have the necessary food to provide the desired growth.

Below the dam, however, the excellent fishing has continued. This is a favorite spot for anglers and good catches are the rule.

Recreation developments have been made south of Galata on both sides of the reservoir where the old Bootlegger trail crossed the Marias River. Other developments were placed on the Willow Creek drainage and this has been a favorite spot for fishermen as well as campers and picnickers. The favorite recreation area is located at Stanford Park below the dam. The Parks Section has developed a large recreation area with facilities for camping and picnicking, a playground area for children and a baseball and softball field. Trees, grass and flowers have been planted and the area has become a veritable oasis.

Recently the Parks Section has started to develop an area adjacent to the right abutment of the dam. Trees and grass have been planted, new toilets constructed, interior roads constructed and this fall two new shelter buildings will be erected. This new development will provide additional area for visitors to the reservoir to camp and picnic. The boat ramp has been extended and the beach worked over to provide space for swimmers.

Flood waters in 1964 and high water again in 1965 caused considerable damage to the spillway area and the Bureau of Reclamation is currently making repairs to the spillway. This construction work will take three or four years and during this time the reservoir will probably be maintained at a low level to facilitate the construction work. Once this work is completed the reservoir will again be maintained at a higher level and the recreation activities will improve.

Tiber is an interesting area and worthy of a visit if you're traveling along the high-line.

1. Ask permission to hunt or fish.
2. Practice safe gun handling.
3. Leave gates and fences as you find them.
4. Save, burn or bury trash.
5. Respect private property.
6. Respect the rights of others in the field.
7. Stay on travelled roads.
8. Put out camp fires and cigarettes.
9. Obey Fish & Game Regulations.
10. Courtesy, consideration and common sense are the keys for better landowner and recreationist relationships.

BELOW THE BELT

An article in a recent issue of a national magazine slugs hunters in general well below the beltline. The author who pot-shoots at hunters with such labels as "disreputable," "destructive," "dangerous," "dirtiest of outdoor users," displays a woeful lack of knowledge regarding the contribution of hunters towards outdoor recreation in general. The article reveals also a lamentable ignorance of the simplest ecological principles, in spite of the authors' claims of being a naturalist.

Perhaps the readers will consider such thoughts as are pointed out in the following excerpts from "Shooting for the Future," a pamphlet of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.

The Value of Hunting

". . . Whatever the reward to hunters, they have continued to show their willingness to support their sport, with time, effort and money.

Their contribution to the outdoor scene is there for everyone to see. The woods and fields of America are alive with the evidence of their concern. And the same open spaces that hunters use and the wildlife that thrives there are just as available to the non-hunting public for its enjoyment and recreation.

Hunters have earned their place in outdoor America.

They have paid millions in excise taxes, and more millions on licenses and permits. It is also estimated that hunters spend more than $100 million each year developing wildlife habitat on privately-owned land.

Surveys show that hunters alone pour about $1.5 billion into the economy of the nation every year. And a great deal of this money finds its way into far-reaching conservation programs.

But the real measure of the sportsman's contribution to the nation will come in years ahead.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that nine out of ten Americans — roughly 175 million people — periodically take to the outdoors in search of recreation. This number will pyramid rapidly according to all population and recreation projects.

These future generations will need a refuge of peace and quite in the out-of-doors. They will want clean streams and lakes full of fish, and open spaces where they can spread a picnic lunch and watch their children run.

They will be looking for hushed woodlands with free-roaming wildlife and sunlit meadows alive with songbirds.

This is the future that hunters are shooting for — a future that only wise conservation can provide. This should be the concern of all Americans — hunters and non-hunters alike.

The Facts of Wildlife

Wildlife is one resource which cannot be stockpiled.

If hunters do not crop the annual surplus of game, Nature steps in to do the job and it isn't always pleasant. Deer will eat themselves out of house and home, over-browsing their range until starvation reduces their numbers. Predators cut out their share of a herd, bringing down the young and the hunger-weakened stragglers. Diseases and parasites add to the toll.

A severe winter can work more havoc on an over-populated deer herd than an army of hunters.

Research shows that a good deer herd in a well-balanced habitat can withstand an annual harvest of about 40 percent without ill effect on future populations. Yet in most states, hunters rarely take more than 15 percent.

Even if a deer can survive the hard winters, short food supply and predation, old age will take its toll in worn teeth and general physical condition, leaving a proud, stately buck to death by starvation and disease.

All the marksmen in the world would be hard pressed to match Nature's regulation on species like the bobwhite quail and the mourning dove.

The hard fact of life is that both the quail and the dove undergo an annual mortality rate of 75 to 80 percent whether they are hunted or not.

In recent years, the dove has become the most popular game bird in America. Despite an annual harvest of about 20,000,000, the basic breeding flock of doves has increased over the past two decades.

Hunting is a useful tool in today's scientific game-management practices. With carefully regulated seasons and bag limits, biologists see to it that hunters merely harvest the surplus of game populations.

Changes in forestry and agricultural patterns have far more effect on game population than does hunting. During the settling years of the nation, the farming and cattle industries made sweeping changes in the landscape, evicting much of the wildlife and obliterating some species from their native ranges.

Some species of wildlife adapt easily to living side by side with mankind. Rabbits are far from timid about helping themselves to vegetables in backyard gardens or nesting under porches and outbuildings. Pheasant and even deer seem to enjoy the easy pickings on farms and orchards, much to the consternation of farmers.

On the other hand, some species like the antelope or the wild turkey require habitat remote from civilization. Both species had faded from much of their native ranges until sportsmen saw to the protection and restoration of their habitat. In many cases, the very survival of species which cannot adapt to spreading development depends on the efforts of the sportsmen.

Today the ax and the plow have been succeeded by the chain saw, the bulldozer and the road-grader and they continue to be determining forces in the future of wildlife.

Changes being wrought upon the American landscape today by land development will be with us for a long time to come. There is little chance that a shopping center or a highway will ever be jack-hammered out of existence and turned back into woods or fields.

Sportsmen and government agencies have been trying to counteract this sprawl of civilization by setting aside wildlife areas and recreation lands. A milestone was marked in this fight in 1965 when the amount of land put into conservation programs matched the million acres which is annually lost to development.

Since then the scales have shifted in favor of wildlife and green acres and sportsmen continue to back the race for open space.

"No one but he who has partaken thereof, can understand the keen delight of hunting in lonely lands. For him is the joy of the horse well ridden and the rifle well held; for him the long days of toil and hardship, resolutely endured, and crowned at the end with triumph. In after-years there shall come forever to his mind the memory of endless prairies shimmering in the bright sun; of vast snow-clad wastes lying desolate under gray skies; of the melancholy marshes; of the rush to mighty rivers; of the breath of the evergreen forest in summer; of the crooning of ice-armored pines at the touch of the winds of winter; of cataracts roaring between hoary mountain masses; of all the innumerable sights and sounds of the wilderness; of its immensity and mystery; and of the silences that brood in its still depths."

THEODORE, ROOSEVELT

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